Library

ADLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Adlington.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December 1958.

The number of live births attributable to the District was 5 more than in the previous year, giving a Birth Rate of 14.4 per 1000 population as compared with the Birth Rate for the country as a whole of 16.4.

The number of deaths attributable to the District was 15 less than in the year 1957, giving a Death Rate of 11.1 per 1000 population as compared with the Death Rate for the country as a whole of 11.7. It should be noted that 26 of the deaths which occurred were of persons 7o or more years of age; of these 10 were 75 or more, 7 were 80 or more and one was 90 years of age.

In regard to causes of death, whilst there were 3 more deaths from Coronary heart disease than in the previous year, the number of deaths from other forms of heart disease were reduced by 14. The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms were reduced from 14 in 1957 to 7 in 1958. It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths from tuberculosis. Deaths from other causes show only minor variations.

During the year one infant under the age of one year died; there were no infant deaths in 1957.

It is pleasing to note that for the second consecutive year there were no stillbirths registered.

In regard to notifications of infectious diseases only 10 were notified, of which 7 were Dysentery. The cases of Dysentery were confined to one small area, and the illness was of a mild character; because of this it is possible the actual number of persons affected did not come to light.

During the year 5 houses scheduled for Slum Clearance have been closed by the Council and demolished by the owners. Further scheduled houses will be dealt with in this way in 1959.

Since the installation of the chlorinating plant at the Harding Street Pumphouse all water samples taken during the year have proved very satisfactory.

During 1958 the Council have had under consideration the flooding which takes place in certain parts of the district after heavy rainfall, and the adequacy of the sewage disposal works to deal with additional sewage proposed to be treated from an adjoining district, and have decided to appoint a firm of Consultant Engineers to prepare a report upon the whole system of sewerage and sewage disposal.

All the remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act 1956 became operative during the year, and should be fully implemented by the Council if the Act is to have the desired effect of ridding the atmosphere of much of the pollution with its harmful effects on health.

Attention has been given during the year to the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the response from the various retailers is very encouraging.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Officers of the Council for their willing assistance at all times. My thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support and consideration extended to me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1959.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ADLINGTON

VITAL STATISTICS 1958

Area	1062 acres.
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1958) ...	4230
Number of inhabited houses	1433
Rateable Value at 1st April 1958	£30,418.
Product of 1d Rate..	£112-11-6d.

Births

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	...	30	28	58
Illegitimate	...	1	2	3
		31	30	61

Birth Rate per 1000 population - Crude = 14. 4
Adjusted = 15. 4

Stillbirths	Nil
Total Live and Still-births	61.

Deaths

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks ...	1
Deaths of Infants under one year ...	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births

Total	...	16.4
Legitimate	...	17.2
Illegitimate	...	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1000 live births ...	16.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.	4.9
Maternal Deaths (including abortion) ...	nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 live and Still-births	nil.

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths	... ...	28	19	47

Death Rate per 1000 population - Crude = 11.1
Adjusted = 12.3

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	7
do. Measles ...	...	-
do. Whooping Cough ...	...	-
do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	-

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Coronary Disease (angina) ...	7	1	8
Other Heart Disease ...	2	4	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease..	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	3	7
Other cirulatory diseases ...	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasms ...	2	5	7
Suicide ...	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	1	4
Motor accidents ...	2	-	2
Other accidents ...	2	1	3
Leukaemia ...	1	-	1
Pneumonia ...	-	1	1
Bronchitis ...	2	1	3
	28	19	47

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1000	No. registered.	Rate per 1000 pop.	No. registered.	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1000 live births
Year 1958	61	14.4	47	11.1	nil	nil	nil	nil	1	16	1	16
Year 1957	56	13.4	62	14.9	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Year 1956	67	16.1	49	11.8	1	15	nil	nil	4	60	2	30
Year 1955	50	12.2	52	12.7	1	20	nil	nil	2	40	1	20
Year 1954	64	15.6	47	11.4	1	15	nil	nil	5	78	3	47
Year 1953	63	15.4	38	9.3	nil	nil	nil	nil	1	16	1	16
Average 5 years 1953 -1957	60	14.5	49	12.0	0.6	10.0	nil	nil	2.4	38.8	1.4	22.6

Adjusted (Live birth-rate (comparability factor 1.07) = 15.4 per 1000
(Death-rate (comparability factor 1.11) = 12.3 per 1000

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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Staff

Medical Officer of Health:- Dr. J. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.
Public Health Inspector (Part-time):- Norman R. Bolton, R.S.I.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological Laboratory, Preston Royal Infirmary.
Public Health Laboratory, Preston Royal Infirmary.
Pathological Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

Towards the end of the year a new Public Health Laboratory was opened in Preston. The laboratory service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health, and caters for every aspect of the Public Health work of a Local Authority related to the bacteriological and pathological examination of samples and specimens.

Ambulance Facilities.

Provided by Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service.
(Chorley Depot) - Telephone: Chorley 2744.
All the ambulance vehicles are now radio-controlled from the County Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton.

Nursing in the Home.

There is one "District Nurse" practising in the area. She is Nurse I. M. Darley, 1 Mayfield Avenue, Adlington. Telephone: Adlington 228.

Treatment Clinics

The "Minor Ailment" Clinic is held at 20 St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.
Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye, etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist status.
Attendance is by appointment via School Medical Staff.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

The Chest Clinic, 34 St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.
A Chest Physician (Dr. Nicholson) attends.
This Clinic is also used as a consultant clinic for chest conditions other than tuberculosis.

Hospital Facilities.

Chorley and District Hospital.
Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.
Wigan Infirmary.
Bolton Infirmary.
Preston Royal Infirmary.
Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood.
Hospital, Heath Charnock.
Whelley Hospital, Wigan.
Isolation Hospital, Deepdale, Preston.

All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

These services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domiciliary Facilities.

There is now no County Midwife resident in the District. The service is provided from adjacent areas.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The large majority of the expectant mothers in the area attend the ante-natal clinic at 2/4 St. Thomas's Square, Chorley, and avail themselves of the facilities provided by the Lancashire County Divisional Health Service.

Maternity Beds.

Normal accommodation is available at Chorley and District Hospital and Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley. Other hospitals are also available.

Infant Welfare Centres.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly (Wednesdays 2-4 p.m.) at the Christ Church Schoolroom, Adlington, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council, as well as the County Health Visitor. The Medical Officer is Dr. Eileen M. Beirne.

Health Visitor.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Mrs. Ashley, 123 Bolton Road, Chorley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The water supply of the area is provided (1) from the Blackrod Reservoir (by arrangement with Blackrod Urban District Council, and (2) from a tapping of the conduits taking the Manchester Supply from Thirlmere (by arrangement with the Manchester Corporation. The supplies are interchangeable and complementary.

In 1957 a chlorinating plant was installed at Harding Street Pumphouse, since which time samples of water taken have proved satisfactory. The Blackrod supply was already chlorinated and samples taken from that authority were consistently satisfactory.

During the year 8 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological analysis. All were reported to be highly satisfactory.

Location	No.B.Coli. per 100ml.	No.faecal coli. per 100ml.	No.of non-faecal coli.per 100ml.	Analyst's remarks.
11 Westhoughton Rd.	0	0	0	Highly satisfactory.
123 Railway Road.	0	0	0	do.
15 Chorley Road.	0	0	0	do.
Harding Street Pumphouse	0	0	0	do.
48 Bolton Road	2	0	0	do.
1 Southgate	0	0	0	do.
35 Church Street	0	0	0	do.
49 Peel Street	0	0	0	do.

Every house in the area has a "main supply". The average daily consumption was 127,562 gallons which gives a consumption per head of the population of 30.55 gallons daily.

During the year extensions were made to the water mains in Peel Street, Granville Street and Highfield Road to serve new properties being built.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Only 34 outlying properties are not connected to the sewerage system. These have septic tanks. Sewerage disposal is by precipitation and filtration over 3 coke filters at the Sewerage Disposal Works at Harrisons Farm. The effluent is discharged into the River Douglas. The Sewage Works was modernised in 1931. Further extensions are under consideration.

An extension to the sewer in Highfield Road was made during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

1476 moveable ashbins are emptied weekly by the Local Authority. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites.

Cleansing of Drains and Closets.

Closet accommodation :-

Privy Middens - No. of Middens	...	...	10
No. of Closets attached thereto	...	...	12
No. of Pail Closets	...	...	1
No. of freshwater closets	...	...	1777
No. of waste water closets	...	...	2

The onus for the satisfactory maintenance of drains and closets is upon the property owners and such work is not undertaken by the Local Authority.

Lavatories and Urinals.

There are public lavatories at the upper and lower Recreation Grounds, and modern sanitary conveniences at Station Road and Babylon Lane. The Conveniences are cleaned daily by the Local Authority's staff. Trouble is still experienced because of the wilful damage that is persistently being done to the two modern sanitary conveniences.

Shops and Offices

There are from 90-100 registered Shops in the area. No action was taken under the Shops Acts or Public Health Act,1936, during the year. The County Council are responsible for the administration of the Shops Acts, your Public Health Inspector acting as their agent. The Public Health Inspector made 94 visits to these premises during the year.

Camping sites

There are no camping sites in the area.

Smoke Abatement.

No. of factory and Works chimneys in the area	...	4
No. of observations taken during the year	...	48

No legal proceedings were taken for excessive smoke emissions during the year, but personal contact with the firms and their boiler personnel was maintained by the Public Health Inspector.

During the year under review the remaining provisions under the Clean Air Act, 1956 became operative as follows:-

Sections 1 & 2, which with certain exceptions prohibit the emission of dark smoke from chimneys.
Sections 5 to 9,which regulate the discharge of grit and dust from furnaces.
Section 16, which provides new powers for dealing with smoke nuisances.
Sections 19 & 20, which prohibit dark smoke from railway engines and ships.

Disinfestation of Houses.

One house was found to be slightly infested during the year 1958, and was treated with Pyrethum D.D.T. powder with good effect.

Schools.

The water supply of the Schools is from the mains.

The following Schools are within the Urban District :-

Adlington C. E. School.
St. Paul's C.E. School.
St. Paul's C.E. Infants School.

All the Schools now have modern sanitary conveniences.

Other matters.

There are in the area no Common Lodging Houses or "Houses let in Lodgings" registered, no swimming baths or pools, no underground sleeping rooms, no premises where rag flock is manufactured, and no premises for the undertaking of offensive trades.

Summary of Sanitary Inspections

No. of premises visited	164
No. of visits made to above	317
No. of nuisances discovered	69
No. of nuisances abated	69
No. of informal notices served	63
No. of Statutory Notices served	Nil

There were no legal proceedings for the abatement of nuisances.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(1) By Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other Local Authorities	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	52

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	27
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	37
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) No. found during the year ...	Nil.
(b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year	46
(3) No. of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	33

2. Houses Demolished

In Clearance Areas - (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :

(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act,1957	Nil.

Not in Clearance Areas

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act,1957 ...	5.

3. Unfit Houses Closed.

(1) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957.	1.
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act,1957.	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil

4. Unfit Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...	17	Nil
(2) After formal notice under -		
a. Public Health Acts ...	Nil	Nil
b. Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act,1957 ...	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Section 24 Housing Act,1957 ...	Nil	Nil

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957).

Position at end of year :	No. of houses
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation	
(a) Under Section 48	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil

6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement.

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased during the year. ... ... Nil

7. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.

	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of schemes	No. of dwell. houses or other bldgs. affected.	No. of schemes	No. of dwell. Houses or other bldgs. affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	2	2	-	-
(b) Approved by local authority	2	2	-	-
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-	-	-
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-	-	-
(e) Work completed	2	2	-	-
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	-		-	

(g) Any other action taken under the Act ... ... None.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Although houses built since 1914 are brick, houses built before that date are mainly stone-built with slated roofs. These are mostly of the two or three bedroom terrace type and lack modern amenities such as hot water systems, bathrooms and food stores. Their average age is 60-70 years, and the prevailing defects are dampness and to a much lesser extent, roofs, but for the most part they are well-maintained. Many of these houses are now owner-occupied and have been modernised already, and works of improvement are being regularly carried out to bring more of them up to modern standards.

A few years ago the County Council introduced a scheme for the Housing of the Aged. This scheme offers grants to Housing Authorities for the provision of certain welfare facilities (e.g. warden, laundry, common room etc.) in connection with the authorities' "Housing of the Aged". During the year, the Council gave consideration to this matter, but no decision has been reached.

Housing Schemes.

No further Housing Schemes were contemplated during the year.

Overcrowding or Housing Shortage.

35 applications for houses were received during the year, 7 of these being from persons living outside Adlington. Six of the Adlington applicants have since bought their own house and only 4 of the remainder are not already living in their own homes, these being newly married. Eight applicants are living in their own homes but would like an old people's bungalow.

There are no cases of overcrowding on the Council's housing list.

Rent Act, 1957.
Part II of the First Schedule.

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	8
No. of Certificates issued. ...	...	6
No. of Undertakings given by Landlords to remedy defects	...	2
No. of applications in which the defects were remedied immediately after Local Authority's notice	...	2
No. of applications withdrawn ...	...	2
No. of Certificates of Disrepair revoked	...	nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

In April 1956 the Milk (Special Designations)(Specified Areas) Order came into force, and so far as Adlington is concerned, it became necessary for retailers to sell only designated milk - Tuberculin-tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

There are 4 producer-retailers with premises in Adlington and 4 retailers with premises outside the district retailing milk in Adlington. In addition there are 4 shops licensed to sell Sterilized Milk.

(b) Meat.

There is only one licensed Slaughterhouse within the district, and this is only used in case of emergency.

There are 5 Butchers and one Pork Butcher in the district, and 20 visits were made to these shops during the year, and to meat preparing premises.

(c) Other Foods.

Places where other foods are prepared, or kept for sale are inspected frequently by the Public Health Inspector.

There are 10 small bakehouses and 4 fried fish shops in the district - all are kept in a satisfactory condition.

40 inspections of places where food is prepared were made during the year by the Public Health Inspector.

The following list gives the number of food premises by type of business in the district at the end of the year under review :-

General Grocers and provision dealers	...	...	22
Greengrocers and fruiterers (inc.fishmongers etc.)		...	9
Fishmongers (inc. poultry, game, etc.) only		...	-
Meat Shops (butchers, cooked & preserved meat etc.)		...	6
Bakers and/or Confectioners	...	...	10
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	4
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	...	...	10
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, cafes, snack bars.			18

Unsound Food

During the year, the following food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-

			Tins	
Frozen Livers	...	...		50 lbs.
Cooked Ham and Tongue	...	...		17 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	53	39 lbs.
Tinned Meats	...	...	38	43 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	23	10 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	49	39 lbs.
Tinned Soup	...	...	27	22 lbs.
Tinned Fruits	...	...	111	126 lbs.

Ice-Cream

Ice-cream retailed throughout the district is confined to pre-packed standard brands.

Food Hygiene Regulations

During the year 94 visits have been made to food premises and it is encouraging to find that the retailers are, on the whole, doing everything that is possible to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, and in no case has it been necessary to resort to statutory action.

Rodent Control

The following table gives the work done during the year.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling houses (2)	Agricultural. (3)	All other inc. business prem. (4)	Total (5)
Total no. of properties in Local Authority's District	8	1433	14	148	1603
No. of properties inspected by Local Author. during 1958 as a result of (a) Notification (b) survey or otherwise	a. -	11	-	-	11
	b. 8	45	14	22	89
No. of properties inspected (see above) found to be infested with Rats	Major -	-	-	-	-
	Minor 2	5	1	2	10
No. of properties inspected (see above) found to be seriously infested with mice	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Block control schemes carried out	nil				

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year the following cases were notified :-

			1958	1957
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	-	1
Measles	...	...	1	21
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	-	6
Pneumonia	...	...	-	2
Dysentery	...	...	7	-

It is gratifying to note that this has been the 14th successive year without a Diphtheria case notified.

Tuberculosis

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was added to the Register during the year, as against two in 1957.

The total numberof cases on the Register at the end of the year was 17 of which 10 were pulmonary tuberculosis and 6 non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

A Mass Miniature Radiography Unit of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board carried out a Survey in the district during the year. The table below gives the numbers examined and the abnormalities discovered.

Mass Radiography Survey - 6th to 8th May 1958 (inclusive)

	Male	Female	Total
Number examined ...	578	836	1414
Abnormalities discovered:-			
Tuberculosis requiring only occasional out-patient supervision ...	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasms ...	1	-	1
Acquired cardiac abnormality and abnormalities of the Vascular System ...	-	8	8
Pneumoconiosis ...	1	-	1